

Proving God's Existence

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"The Fool hath said in his heart, 'There is no God.'" Psalm 14:1

Yuri Alexeyevitch Gagarin, the first human ever to enter space, was killed when the plane he was piloting crashed. He died as he lived among his fellow Russians - a hero. The report said he "sacrificed his life to save a peasant village.."

Most of us remember Gagarin by the feat he pulled in the year 1961. The date was April 12. He rode his spaceship Vostok I on a trip around the earth and returned safely. Gagarin, a Major at the time, was only 27 years old. He had made history before he had reached middle age.

When he was buried, he was buried with the hero's funeral. His funeral was on Red Square in Moscow. People turned out in droves, and they wept as they sang his praises. His death was a national tragedy.

Death has a way of making us forget many things about people. How was it that Shakespeare put it? "The evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones." Guess that is about right in some cases. And in other cases it is exactly the opposite.

Somehow we have forgotten what Yuri Gagarin said during that first trip of mankind around our Mother earth. Oh, to be certain, he said many things. But one of them kinda stands out in my mind. It is, actually, the only thing I can remember him saying. While spinning around up there he sent back this message:

"I CAN SEE NO GOD."

His intention, of course, was to disprove the belief of millions of people that there is a Creator responsible for this race, and space. His words did little to dispel any of our beliefs in the Almighty. In reality, they probably strengthened most in their belief.

You see, the existence of a Power behind this universe doesn't depend on one man's ability to see Him. And, despite his tremendous educational advances, man can neither "prove" nor "disprove" the existence of God.

Gagarin was raised in a system which taught him there was no Creator. It taught him that this earth was and is purely an accident. That there is no right or wrong but only a state. Taught him that his allegiance was not to anything else other than to a state. "The state," he was taught, "is your god."

The state, being his god, took him and buried him and said all that remained of Yuri Gagarin was his influence. Like millions of others who have died he left a wife and children - ages 7 and 9. They will be raised in the same society he was.

Yuri Gagarin could not see a God on that first trip around the earth. Now he is dead. I wonder if Yuri Alexeyevitch Gagarin can see a God now?